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REMARKS

This application pertains to a novel self adhesive sheet for the temporary protection of fresh paint surfaces of vehicles, such as cars.

Claims 1-3, 5-15 and 17-19 are pending.

Claims 1-3, 6-8 and 10-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative under 35 USC 103(a), as obvious over, JP 7117195.

The JP '195 reference does not anticipate Applicants' claims because, among other reasons, Applicants' claims require that the butyl rubber be blended with elastomers selected from the group consisting of polyisobutylenes, polyolefin copolymers, polybutenes, hydrogenated block copolymers of styrene and dienes and acrylate copolymers. Paragraph [0007] of JP '195, referenced by the Examiner, requires liquid polyisobutylene. A liquid polyisobutylene is not an elastomer! Applicants' claims cannot therefore be seen as anticipated by JP '195.

In addition, there is nothing to be found in this reference that would suggest using an elastomeric form of the polyisobutylene instead of a liquid. It should be noted that liquid polyisobutylene is one of the main components of the JP '195 composition (see Abstract). Accordingly, the reference clearly teaches away from using an elastomeric form of this component. Applicants' claims cannot therefore be seen as

obvious over JP '195.

The rejection of claims 1-3, 6-8 and 10-13 under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative under 35 USC 103(a), as obvious over, JP 7117195 should accordingly now be withdrawn.

Claims 5, 9, 14, 15 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over JP '195, and for claims 17 and 19 in further view of EP '053. The differences between Applicants' claims and anything disclosed in the JP '195 reference are discussed above. Nothing in the EP reference would suggest that the main component of the JP '195 reference, a liquid polyisoprene, be changed to an elastomer. Indeed, to do so would be contrary to the teachings of the JP '195 reference. In addition, with specific reference to claim 17, page 5, paragraph [0007] the JP reference teaches that with less than 20 parts by weight of polyisobutylene there are cases where the adhesive strength is poor. This would certainly teach away from the amount recited in claim 17. Claim 17 therefore requires, where polyisobutylene is used, that it be an elastomeric form of polyisobutylene, whereas JP '195 requires a liquid polyisobutylene. Claim 17 also requires less than 10 parts by weight of the elastomer, whereas JP '195 teaches that less than 20 parts results in a weak bond. The Examiner contends that the weight amount is a matter of routine optimization. With all due respect, it is not an matter of routine optimization to go in a direction that the cited reference teaches not to go in!

Accordingly, Applicants' claims cannot be seen as obvious over JP '195, whether

taken alone or in combination with EP '053. The rejection of claims 5, 9, 14, 15 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over JP '195, and for claims 17 and 19 in further view of EP '053 should accordingly now be withdrawn.

In view of the present amendments and remarks it is believed that claims 1-3, 5-15 and 17-19 are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of said claims by the Examiner is respectfully requested and the allowance thereof is courteously solicited.

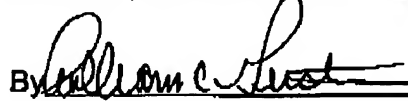
CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If any extension of time for this response is required, Applicants request that this be considered a petition therefor. Please charge the required petition fee to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fee or credit any excess to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

Respectfully submitted,
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile, no. 571-273-8300 to Mail Stop Amendment United States Patent and Trademark Office, addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on August 17, 2006.

By Johanna Gavilaries
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